

No. 4975 第五十七百九千四第 日三初月九年酉癸治同 HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 23rd OCTOBER, 1878. 四拜禮 號三十二月十英 港香 [Price \$2] PER MONTH.

Intimations.

Ex. Pet. No. 14th October, 1873.
 1489/1491 ... 2 cases Merchandise.
 14 } ... 2 cases do.
 Hong, 18th October, 1873.

NOTICES OF FIRMS.

NOTICE.
FROM and after January, 1874, the business of the undersigned will be transacted, and carried on under the name of style of "NEWMAN & CO."

WALTER NEWMAN,
JOHN GITTENS,
of 1704, Fenchurch, 11th October, 1873.

NOTICE.
The interest and responsibility of the late firm of CHARLES WILSON MURRAY, in our firm, ceased on the 16th August last.

BILLEY & CO.,
of 1615 Hongkong, 11th October, 1873.

NOTICE.
The business of the undersigned will, from this date, be conducted under the name and style of "NEWMAN & CO."

EDWARD NEWMAN,
ROBERT LYALL,
of 1671 Hongkong, 22nd September, 1873.

The interest and responsibility in our firm of JOHN H. SMITH, ceased on the 30th of April last.

P. BLACKBURN & Co.,
of 708 Hongkong, 1st May, 1873.

M. R. S. GORDON has this day been admitted a partner in our firm.

A. A. OGDEN & Co.,
of 458 Canton, 1st January, 1873.

The Daily Press.

1873-1874, OCTOBER 23RD, 1873.

Residents in China and those at home have probably by this time come to a very similar way of thinking in respect to the inland exactions made upon foreign trade. It is to say, they both regard the question with indifference, in the one case, from not knowing enough about it, and in the other, from knowing too much. The home resident cannot understand how small inland taxes can seriously affect foreign commerce in China; the resident here knows too well that they do seriously impede his trade, and he knows also unfortunately that it is the most difficult problem to devise means for putting them down. Thus, while the question is torn to rags out here, it scarcely demands any attention whatever at home, and the only real means of ameliorating the difficulty, that of the display on the part of foreign Governments of a determination not to put up with the exactions, are not brought into action.

We recently noticed the complaints made by a northern party of the restrictions upon the trade of Kinkiang, in consequence of the barrier squeezes; and we now notice precisely similar complaints from Foochow. In the Foochow Herald of the 16th instant, a writer evidently well acquainted with the subject, treats briefly but effectively of Kinkiang taxes in general, and of their effect upon the trade of Kinkiang in particular. Quoting the well known twenty-eight articles of the Treaty, and number seven of the Trade Rules appended to that instrument, he points out that the Kinkiang taxes, which are those which press most heavily on foreign trade, were originally quite exceptional, and were intended as a temporary financial measure to meet the exigencies of the war and the Tzeping rebellion, but that there is no justification for continuing them at the present time; and the smallness of the import trade at Foochow is pointed to as the result of the narrow-sighted policy pursued by the Chinese of burdening trade with taxes which are far larger than it can bear. The cause of this untoward state of things is accurately pointed out. "The truth is," the Mandarin connected with the levying of these taxes are, as a class, venal and untrustworthy. Underpaid by the Government they serve, they endeavour to make good the shortcomings of the Central Authority by a system of the most unscrupulous and unblushing plunder. Primarily the native traders and consumers are the sufferers, thereby, but in the end the pernicious effect of such a system recoils upon the foreign merchant. This is undoubtedly a true representation of the state of affairs; but unfortunately the facts are sufficient to show the extreme difficulty of applying a remedy. It is in the power of the local officials constantly to change the name of the tax they impose, and to place it in some category which will take it out of the action of the Treaty. Formerly the absolute right was claimed to levy the Kinkiang taxes; now the same right is claimed with regard to Stamp-duty—taxes raised, according to the Chinese statement of the matter, with the object merely of meeting local expenditure, and consequently entirely under the control of the local officials. It was by this means that the Chinese officials at Peking contrived to mislead Sir Rutherford Alcock into siding with them in the negotiations with reference to the revision of the Treaty. He was unable to see that anything could interfere with the sovereign right of China to levy such taxes as she pleased upon her own subjects, and on her own territory, although, had he more carefully read the Treaty itself, he must have found the solution of the problem. Nothing could be plainer than the words of the twenty-eighth article, which are that the payment of the transit duty "shall exempt goods from all further inland charges whatsoever." If the word "all" means anything, there surely can be no doubt that the stipulation was that the maritime and transit duties should be the sum total of the taxation laid upon foreign goods. Notwithstanding, however, this clear provision, the local authorities are permitted to levy barrier duties which are absolutely prohibitive on the trade in foreign goods at several ports, and which supply large consuming districts; and so entangled has a perfectly clear question become with Chinese sophisms, that our Representatives have almost entirely given up the right secured by the Treaty, and had Sir Rutherford Alcock's Convention been ratified, there is little doubt we should have given it up altogether.

It is stated that a telegram had been received to the effect that Sir Edwin Layard, the English minister at Peking, had been ordered to leave. It would appear that the information was sent under the impression that a telegram had already been received announcing his death.

Although compelled to postpone their performance from the day originally proposed, our energetic and talented Dramatic Amateurs are well up to time in opening the season of amusements during the cool weather. This evening, they will give their first performance, the well known drama of "Plot and Passion," being the piece selected, and we are not doubt that they will be a full house, and that the performance will come well up to those previously given, which have gained for the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Corps a good reputation.

We are requested to note that the Military Band of the 24th Regiment will take place on and after Sunday next, at 8 o'clock.

Our attention has been called to the fact that the steamer *Zurich* left London on the 5th inst., and is expected to arrive here on the 18th inst.

The French steamer *Comard* arrived yesterday from Yokohama, and on entering the harbour, saluted the flag at a little after 11 a.m., the salute being returned by H.M.S. *Princess Charlotte*, and by the *Garmon Battery*.

Advices from Foochow on the 18th instant report that there has been more business during the week ending that date, and that prices are decidedly firm, though actual sale of rice has been established. Total export on all ports to the above date was 48,743,800 lbs.

An unfortunate accident happened yesterday at the Canton Wharf, in consequence of the impossibility of restraining the eagerness of Chinese to rush on board the Canton steamer *Yong-tung*. Yesterday the steamer was crowded with passengers, and notwithstanding the efforts of the Sikh constables, some of the coolies got past him, and one of them, in endeavouring to leap on board the steamer before she was fairly alongside, slipped and fell, and was killed.

The police were dragging for the body to a late hour last night.

FOOTING.
The Herald of the 16th inst. has the following items—

We understand that the F. M. C. steamer *Becho* is expected here in a few days. We shall doubtless be heartily welcomed back by the numerous friends of the captain and crew.

The annual meeting of the American M. E. Mission commenced on the 18th inst., and terminated yesterday morning.

A fatal accident occurred on Sunday morning last. A Chinaman, while on the act of stepping from a sampan to the gangway ladder of the S. S. *Keewauing*, missed his footing, and falling overboard, was killed.

The following were the jury: Messrs. S. J. O. Webb, J. C. Newell, A. B. de Rosa, S. L. de Rosa, J. C. de Rosa, and J. C. de Rosa.

LARVON OF SICK FROM THE T. AND C. STEAMER "MIRAZORE."

Local, Canton, and Foochow, and other places, have been visited by the epidemic.

The Attorney-General stated the facts of the case, and the evidence before the Magistrate.

Wong-choo, formerly employed by the first prisoner, as butler in No. 56, who took of the case of silk, gave evidence to the effect that he had seen the prisoner in the case of silk.

The prisoner, who was a Chinaman, was taken to the Police Court, and the case was adjourned to the 10th inst.

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defendant said he was drunk, and did not know what he was doing.

The Colour Sergeant, Mr. Alford, then produced the first defendant's character.

The Witness said that the first defendant had a good character, he would only say he 25 years of age, and was a native of the island.

The second defendant, who was in his defence that he was drunk, and did not know what he was doing, was fined \$10, or one month's hard labour.

A NEIGHBOUR'S TROUBLE.

Mrs. Angelina was charged by Mr. Richmond, with making a great noise during the night in Wyndham-street.

Complainant said he had a sick person in the house, and in the middle of the night the defendant would come singing, and making a great noise.

The defendant denied the charges.

The witness said he would remain the case till Friday.

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THE LOSS OF THE STEAMER "COSTA RICA."

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